

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The oxide superconducting wire according to Claim 16, wherein the orientation $\Delta\Phi$ of the cap layer is better than the orientation $\Delta\Phi$ of the intermediate layer.

7.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The oxide superconducting wire according to Claim 16, wherein the cap layer is formed at a rate higher than a rate at which the intermediate layer is formed.

11. (Previously Presented) The oxide superconducting wire according to Claim 16, wherein the cap layer is formed at a rate of 1 to 5000 nm/min.

12. (Previously Presented) The oxide superconducting wire according to Claim 16, wherein the cap layer is formed at a PLD laser energy density of 1 to 5 J/cm².

13. (Previously Presented) The oxide superconducting wire according to Claim 16, wherein the oxide superconducting film is a Y123 phase, Sm123 phase, or Nd123 phase.

14. (Previously Presented) The oxide superconducting wire according to Claim 16, wherein the oxide superconducting

film is formed by a pulsed laser deposition method or a metal organic deposition method.

15. (Previously Presented) The oxide superconducting wire according to Claim 16, wherein the metal substrate is composed of a material selected from the group consisting of Hastelloy, stainless steel, nickel alloys, silver, and silver alloys.

16. (Currently Amended) An oxide superconducting wire composed of a metal substrate, an intermediate layer vapor-deposited by an ion beam assisted deposition method on the metal substrate, a CeO_2 cap layer formed by pulsed ~~layer~~laser deposition method on the intermediate layer and an oxide superconducting film formed on the cap layer, wherein the thickness of the intermediate layer is at least 10 nm and no more than 1000 nm, the thickness of the cap layer is at least 50 nm and no more than 5000 nm, the orientation $\Delta\Phi$ of the intermediate layer is at least 10~~20~~ degrees and the orientation $\Delta\Phi$ of the cap layer is no more than 10 degrees.

17. (Previously Presented) The oxide superconducting wire according to Claim 16, wherein the oxide superconducting film comprises a $\text{REBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-x}$ based superconductor, wherein RE is a rare earth element.

18. (Previously Presented) The oxide superconducting wire according to Claim 16, wherein the intermediate layer is composed of a material selected from the group consisting of $\text{Gd}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, yttrium-stabilized zirconium and MgO .